

Patent  
Atty. Dkt. No. LYNN/0120.A

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 26 according to the following replacement claim set:

1-25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) A composition ~~adapted for storage~~ in a form of solid particles that ~~may be solubilized as~~ is soluble in an aqueous solution for use as a sterilant, comprising:

one or more dipercarboxylic acids that are solid at room temperature and soluble at sterilizing concentrations in water; and

an exothermic control agent, wherein the composition is provided in measured amounts to provide a concentration of the one or more dipercarboxylic acids of at least 0.1 wt. % in a measured amount of water to form a sterilizing aqueous solution ~~without an equilibrium amount of hydrogen peroxide~~, wherein the composition is substantially free from organic compounds other than the one or more dipercarboxylic acids, and wherein the composition is solid particles.

27. (Original) The composition of claim 26, wherein the particles form a powder.

28. (Original) The composition of claim 26, wherein the particles are in colloid form.

29. (Original) The composition of claim 26, wherein the particles are in crystalline form.

30. (Original) The composition of claim 26, wherein the particles are in the form of tablets.

31. (Original) The composition of claim 26, wherein the one or more dipercarboxylic acids are selected from diperglutaric acid, diperadipic acid, diperpimelic acid, dipersuberic acid, dipersebacic acid, diperazelaic acid, and combinations thereof.

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32. (Original) The composition of claim 26, wherein the solid particles further comprise stabilizers.
33. (Original) The composition of claim 32, wherein the stabilizers further comprise stannates, dipicolinic acid, pyrophosphoric and polypyrophosphoric acid and their salts.
34. (Original) The composition of claim 32, wherein the stabilizers comprise inorganic salts.
35. (Original) The composition of claim 26, wherein the solid particles are substantially free from organic compounds other than the one or more dipercarboxylic acids.
36. (Original) The composition of claim 26, wherein the one or more dipercarboxylic acids are soluble in water in the absence of a solubilizer.
37. (Original) The composition of claim 34, wherein the inorganic salts are selected from sodium sulfate, magnesium sulfate, hydrated alkali metal salts, alkaline earth metal salts, and combinations thereof.
- 38-39. (Cancelled)
40. (Original) The composition of claim 26, wherein the dipercarboxylic acid has enhanced hydrophobicity of an alkyl chain.
41. (Original) The composition of claim 40, wherein the hydrophobicity is enhanced by incorporation of polar functional groups in a carbon chain.
42. (Original) The composition of claim 41, wherein the polar functional groups are selected from

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hydroxyl, amino, amido, alkoxy, carbonyl groups or combinations thereof.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Previously Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the exothermic control agent is selected from hydrated forms of  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ,  $\text{MgSO}_4$ , and combinations thereof.